



MSA Weekly News

August 14, 2009

Volume 3, Number 1

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Web Links of Interest

Mustang Awards

Check out the list of Silver and Gold Mustang Awards for Fall Semester!

Sheryl Pruitt Bio

Executive Dysfunction Workshop Leader

Basketball Tournament

Get the latest on the tourney schedule.

MSA Sports Calendar

The most current information when it comes to MSA Sports Schedules

They're Heeerrrrreeee!

The children that is! Well we have had three days of school and are even willing to come back on Monday – so how bad could it be? Hopefully your children still want to return on Monday as well. We haven't had any major issues arise that couldn't be solved. Our first day of school included rain, but there were still mostly smiles. Our photographer, Robert Moore, captured those smiles and many other things on his camera - some of which you can find on **Twitter – more about that below.**

Next week is a full week and then we will certainly get into the flow of things and a set routine. Hope everyone had a terrific summer and WELCOME BACK!

Welcome to our New Teachers

We have several new teachers and a couple changes this year that we need to share and let you know we are excited about.

- Jodi Easter-Smith is teaching language arts, math & science in the Lower School.
- Janet Ford is now the Coordinator of the Fine Arts department.
- Branigan Hughes is teaching phonics, readings, social studies, & science in the Lower School.
- Ed Little is teaching world geography & cultures in the Middle School.
- Kate McElliott is teaching chorus in the Fine Arts department.
- Shelley Robinson will be in the Middle School when she comes back from maternity leave (It's a boy!!)
- Todd Sentell is teaching Georgia History in the PreUpper School.



One Hundred Years from now

(excerpt from "Within My Power" by Forest Witcraft)

One Hundred Years from now
It will not matter

MSA Home Page
Find everything you need to find about MSA is here

MSA PVA Web Site
Learn what is going on with your PVA

MSA Weekly News Archives
Catch up on past news

MSA Current Calendar
School Calendar on the MSA website

Contact Us

<http://www.millsprings.org>
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what kind of car I drove,
What kind of house I lived in,
how much money was in my bank account
nor what my clothes looked like.
But the world may be a better place because
I was important in the life of a child.

I'm all a-Twitter

Well we are on day 3 and there has been much excitement already! We have some terrific things that are being put into play to better communicate with friends, family and even the world! I have recently taken on some additional responsibilities to help MSA get some exposure to the world @ large.

First of all we have set in motion a website redesign. We have some terrific information out there, but we want to be able to present it in a better way, so look for that to happen within the next couple months.



Next I have set up an account with [Twitter.com](https://twitter.com) for the school so you can follow us on Twitter.com, our user name is [@MillSpringsAcad](https://twitter.com/MillSpringsAcad). We hope that we can share information with our parents, alumni and anyone else that might be interested via Twitter. So make sure you sign up today because I have posted some photos from our first day of school out there!

And don't forget, sometime last year development set up a Fan Page on Facebook where you can get some information via that tool as well by signing up or logging in at [Facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com). Search for Mill Springs Academy.

So make sure that you are getting your daily dose of social networking! (from Cheri Harwood, Communications Coordinator)

What Daniel did on his Summer Vacation



The Boy Scouts place flags at Marietta National Cemetery for Memorial Day and have been a part of this ceremony since 1946. **Daniel Schmidt**, who is in Communication Arts this

year helped place 18,000 flags at gravestones. I'd love to share YOUR summer story email me [HERE](#). (pictured: Daniel Schmidt)

Chick-fil-A Day Notice



Late Chick-fil-A Day orders will be accepted until September 1st. There will be an additional opportunity to purchase lunch prior to the beginning of the Spring semester. Please direct all inquiries to our new Chick-fil-A Day co-chairmen Chris Abernethy 770-475-2595 abernethyc@bellsouth.net and Debbie Welch 404-863-0529.

MSA Annual Fund



This past week during InService with the staff and faculty we learned about the Annual Fund (AF) as we do each year. The AF does several things: 1) keeps tuition increases down, 2) allows us to attract and maintain valuable staff, 3) helps fund our Scholarship Endowment program, 4) broadens our Fine Arts curriculum, 5) provides funds for various classroom enhancements, and 6) covers unanticipated operating expenses. As staff/faculty/board members we all are asked to participate in this giving opportunity. Our 100% participation helps us go to grant giving foundations, and parents for that matter, and say our staff/faculty/board is committed to our program and we would like you to consider Mill Springs. **Currently our staff/faculty/board is at 91% participation.**

Thank you to everyone that has already given.

What Carolina did on her Summer Vacation



Pictured: Carolina Ayerbe in front of the really big door at the Skull & Bones building at Yale University. Do you see her?

Carolina Ayerbe is an Upper School Social Studies Teacher who attended a 3-day seminar at Yale University where she studied best practices and innovative teaching strategies that can be used in a world history/world cultures classroom.

Yale faculty provided the latest research on world history topics, and teachers shared teaching strategies. Presenters gave samples of both chronological and thematic approaches to world history and strategies for creating an interdisciplinary approach to world history. Participants also explored teaching strategies in a natural sequence: from making contact with a new topic, to conversing substantively in different discussion formats, to linking content with big thematic ideas, to assessing student knowledge with projects and cooperative group investigation. There was also discussion about specific films, musical selections, pieces of art, and works of literature that are appropriate for middle and high school world history classes. (from Carolina)

Parent Tech @ MSA Workshop



All parents are encouraged to come and bring their child's laptop on Thursday evening August 20th at 6:30 p.m. Please make your reservations by clicking [HERE](#). Childcare will be available. Learn about Net Classroom, school databases, and more.

PVA Holds First Meeting of School Year



Please join us for our first MSA PVA (Parent Volunteer Association) meeting on August 24th, 1:30 PM in the Communication Arts Great Room. This is a great opportunity to meet other parents, learn about PVA, and have a say in how we choose to support our faculty and staff and enhance our students' educational and social experience. (from Susan Holmgren, PVA President)

What Keith did on his Summer Vacation

Keith Muma, Upper School science teacher, spent time this summer attending 3 workshops in order to improve his science teaching skills.

The University of Georgia offered a class designed to improve biology laboratory techniques and skills. The course included growing bacteria, DNA sequencing and cellular structure.



Through the state of Georgia, he participated in a workshop called Kitchen Chemistry. The state wants to remove outdated chemicals from school labs. There are ways to conduct a lesson without using harmful chemicals. For example, acetic acid, vinegar, reacts very well with baking soda to produce carbon dioxide in order to study gas laws.

At the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, Keith participated in a 4-day workshop called Investigations in Environmental Science. The class was supported by the National Science Foundation. The course places the student in the role of an environmental scientist and covers 3 units: Land, Energy and Water. When a student is directly involved with a lesson, they have a deeper understanding than if lectured to. So students are given an environmental challenge from each section then utilizing critical thinking skills, they work through their problem. (from Keith Muma)

The Scoreboard



The Soccer Team will have their home opener on August 25 on our beautiful field! Game time is at 4:00pm against Atlanta Area School for the Deaf. So stay posted for scores and come CHEER FOR THE HOME TEAM! **Go Mustangs!**

Don't forget to Include Grandma



Do you have relatives that might like to receive this newsletter? I would love to send it to them. Please contact me **HERE** and give me their email address.

If you sent me Aunt Suzie's email last year that does not count. *You will need to send it again* as we start all over with the distribution lists.

Be advised, I met someone's grandmother this summer randomly at a gathering and she told me she would LOVE to read this newsletter! Grandma's do email too!

The Bulletin Board

If the school had a bulletin board, here is what you would find on it:

Mon, Aug 17 – Fall PM program begins – get your forms and fees in TODAY



Tues, Aug 18 – Chick-fil-A breakfast begins and will continue each Tuesday morning after – Sandwiches will be \$2.75 and plain biscuits are \$1.25

Thur, Aug 20 – 6:30-8:30pm – Parent Workshop – Parent Tech @ MSA – Upper Great Room – **please RSVP HERE**

Mon, Aug 24 – 1:30p – PVA Meeting – CA Great Room

Tue, Aug 25 – School Pictures - SMILE

Community Cares and Concerns



Please email me at any time with individuals you would like to include on our list as their needs arise. For privacy, I will only list names and claim ignorance if you ask me for details.

Contact me [HERE](#).

Character Quote of the Week



The *decisions* we make and the way we behave
 ultimately shape our *character.*

Walter D. Byham

You cannot escape the responsibility of tomorrow by evading it today.

- Abraham Lincoln

To: All Mill Springs Parents, Board of Trustees, Newsletter Friends, Newsletter Family,
 Newsletter Professionals, Newsletter Foundations and All Staff/Faculty

Please follow us on Twitter and Facebook for up to the minute information.



Please consider the environment before printing.

If at any time you wish to not receive further MSA Weekly News editions please just 'reply' with that information in the email to charwood@millsprings.org